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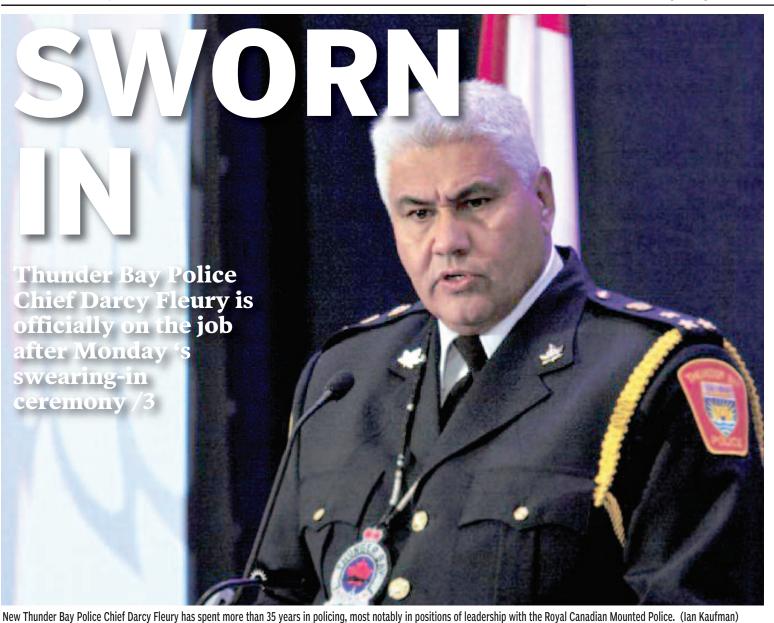




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# Fleury at helm WEATHER FORECAST

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Darcy Fleury has officially been sworn in as the new chief of the Thunder Bay Police Service, taking the helm of an organization that's been rocked repeatedly by controversy in recent years.

Political and community leaders from Thunder Bay and across the region expressed hope, and confidence, in a swearing-in ceremony on Monday that Fleury could lead the force in winning back the trust of the city's Indigenous community, and that of rank-and-file officers who have expressed dismay over the force's leadership in recent years.

Fleury comes to the role with over 36 years of policing experience, most recently as chief superintendent with the RCMP Central Alberta District based in Edmonton.

After spending roughly a month as chief-designate, shadowing acting chief Dan Taddeo, Fleury told over 200 people assembled for the swearing-in at the Delta waterfront hotel he'd already gained a sense of Thunder Bay's community spirit through a whirlwind series of meetings.

"I have witnessed community organizations present and develop new approaches to take on many of the social, health, and justice issues faced by some of our people in Thunder Bay," he said. "I'm committed to working with these agencies to continue to assist in finding solutions to homelessness, addictions, mental health and wellness problems some of our residents are facing."

### **Good sign**

Malcolm Mercer, the administrator appointed by the province to oversee the Thunder Bay Police Services Board amid internal dysfunction, said Fleury's swearing-in marked a hopeful milestone.

"I want to celebrate progress today," he said. "We have a new chief of police selected by a new board and a new governance committee, with thoughtful engagement from First Nations and other leaders."

"There is of course much work to be done by the chief, by the board, and by the service, all of which requires engagement with and support from the communities we serve. So I'm not here to declare success, but I am here to declare progress - and I'm proud of that progress."

In her remarks, Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum said she was hopeful the force would rebuild trust with Indigenous people under Fleury's leadership after a troubled history.

"In order for us to move forward, we must work together," she said. "That is the message that I bring from the leadership and the citizens of Nishnawbe Aski Nation - We need to work together."

She said after injustices, which have included botched investigations of Indigenous deaths, the community is looking for confidence the force is grappling with that history and enacting real

In his own comments, Fleury later appeared to



Thunder Bay Police Chief Darcy Fleury is officially on the job.

answer that sentiment.

"I've been made aware we can never forget what's happened in the past, and I agree," he said. "I see community partners in the room who will never forget and who will be here to work together to create a brighter now, and a brighter future."

"I also agree those past teachings lay the foundation for us to learn and to work together to create strong partnerships to make certain all people of Thunder Bay and Oliver-Paipoonge feel safe."

### Welcome appointment

Métis Nation of Ontario president Margaret Froh welcomed Fleury, pointing to the historic appointment of an Indigenous police chief.

"It is wonderful, I will say, to see an Indigenous police chief here in the city of Thunder Bay - and not just an Indigenous police chief, but a strong Métis man in this role who I know is going to bring a wonderful strong commitment."

"There are many issues, there is much healing to do, there is much work to do. A lot of that work has begun already, and I would echo Anna Betty's words: This is work that we have to do together... We are here to support you, Chief Fleury."

Taddeo had warm words for Fleury, who he called the right man for a challenging assign-

"The chief had to be a true leader who could walk the talk of leadership, which means internally, the membership had to completely accept him and his message, and externally, the public and our stakeholder groups had to believe him and the vision that he has."



Precipitation: 60% HIGH **14** LOW **7** 



**Showers** 

Precipitation: 60% HIGH **1**4 LOW **7** 



**Mostly Sunny** 

Precipitation: 0% HIGH 22 LOW 6



**Partly Cloudy** 

Precipitation: 0% HIGH **12** LOW 2





Visit **TBnewswatch.com** Thursday, May 18, 2023

# City posts a \$5M deficit

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The City of Thunder Bay will need to dip into its reserve funds after posting a higher-than-anticipated \$5-million deficit in 2022 in tax-supported operations, as well as \$1.2 million in COVID-related losses.

In what has become a familiar refrain in recent years, city staff reported that deficit was mostly caused by overruns at the Thunder Bay Police Service, which went \$4.2 million over budget.

The city's roads division was another major factor, going nearly \$3 million over budget due to soaring winter control and spring flooding costs.

The city also spent \$1.2 million more than budgeted in insurance claims, and reported a number of budget overruns below half a million dollars across other departments.

On the other side of the ledger, staff reported finding \$2 million in hiring gap savings, \$1.9 million more than anticipated from tax assessment appeals, and nearly a million more than budgeted in investment income.

The \$5-million deficit amounts to 1.8 per cent of the city's roughly \$285-million tax-supported budget. The deficit is slightly larger than staff projected last fall.

Rate-supported operations essentially broke even, with losses in solid waste and waterworks offset by a surplus in wastewater.

While it will deepen the municipal government's financial pain, the \$1.2-million COVID-related deficit is a smaller loss than the city expected.

The city reported an overall \$4.2-million impact in increased costs and decreased revenues related to COVID-19 in 2022, after budgeting for a \$7.1-million impact.

It was able to cover most of that with \$3 million in pandemic relief funds that were not spent in previous years, leaving \$1.2 million on the city's books.

The difference was attributed primarily to Thunder Bay Transit, which secured permission to use nearly \$2 million in unspent COVID relief funds from prior years in 2022, and city childcare operations, which received additional funding and saved money



Thunder Bay city hall. (FILE)

after eliminating pandemic staff like screeners.

Staff recommend the city pay for those deficits by drawing on a number of financial reserve funds.

That includes pulling \$2.5 million from the winter roads reserve, \$1.2 million from the insurance reserve, \$1.1 million from the stabilization reserve, and smaller amounts from WSIB, legal fees, and building permit reserves to fund the tax-supported deficit.

Staff recommend funding the \$4.2-million COVID-related deficit entirely through the stabilization reserve.

Those moves would bring the stabilization reserve, the city's main rainy-day fund used to cover deficits and cost overruns, down to \$9 million from its current \$14.3 million.

Staff also reported on the status of the city's reserve funds as of year-end.

The winter roads reserve has been drawn down to \$1.3 million, low enough it would be fully depleted if the city posts similar results in 2023.

The city has uncommitted balances of \$1.5 million in its Insurance Reserve Fund, \$3.2 million in the WSIB reserve, and \$3.7 million in the legal fees reserve fund.

A fund dedicated to a possible indoor turf facility had a balance of roughly \$10.8 million at year-end.

The city's Renew Thunder Bay reserve fund stood at \$26.5 million.

# **Thunder City Rumble returning**

### This year's event features music and a fireworks show

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Thunder City Rumble is back and better than ever, with a new Canada Day date and fireworks too.

The popular car show, held in support of Our Kids Count, raised more than \$30,000 last year for the organization and is always a drawing card in a community known for its love of everything automotive.

Daniel Trevisanutto, with Halfway Motors, said last year's inaugural show at the Thunder City

Speedway - the ninth overall show - says the Thunder City Rumble goes hand-in-hand with the racing series being done at the track.

"And this year we're excited to bring the event back even bigger

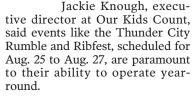
and better," he said.

"We're going to be starting the car show around 11 o'clock, as well as a vintage tractor show. The car show is going to be presented by Auto Home Paints and Canadian Tire, with the tractor show being presented by Kubota Thunder Bay.

"On top of that we're going to have live music starting around 4 o'clock, a beer garden hosted by Sleeping Giant, as well as fireworks

going out at 10 o'clock."

It's one of several events being held this year in support of Our Kids Count, an organization that provides a variety of services to families in Thunder Bay, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, counselling, a community kitchen and licensed child care, to name a few.



"We're just so excited to be a part of the car show that's happening out at Thunder City Speedway this year. Last year was a huge success and this year we're hoping to even be bigger and better, something for the whole family to do out there," Knough said.

"Our Kids Count is a grassroots, not-for-profit charity organization and we completely rely on donors and sponsors and community events and having a partnership with Halfway Motors has been absolutely amazing.

"We only receive a certain amount of core funding within our agency, so we do rely on other donations and grants out in the community to be able to provide all the free services to families out in the community."

Registration for vehicle owners is available through the Our Kids Count or at www.thundercitvrumble.ca.

"It'll be a paid registration, with early-bird pricing for the vehicles. For the general public, this is a free-to-attend event," Trevisanutto



Last year's Thunder City Rumble helped raise \$30,000 for Our Kids Count. (FILE)



DANIEL TREVISANUTO



**CONTACT INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DISPATCH AT 625-2195** 

# Try out a cycling race this year

# There are plenty of competitions in Thunder Bay

I can still fondly recall my first bike race and that my only goal at the time was to finish the event. That was 20 years and well over 500 races ago.

I still have a finishing streak that dates back to day one, but I don't recall if I made the podium or not in that first one.

This is because the result is not what is most important in a bike race. What I do recall, quite clearly, is that I fell head over heels in love with the sport of cycling at that first event.

I can also say, with confidence,

that you too will find excitement, new challenges and great people at one of our local bike races this year.

Participating in a bike race is not about winning or losing. Rather,

most people will enter a bike race to enjoy the social aspect of the sport, or to have a goal to work towards, or to share an activity with family and friends.

There are countless reasons why we are drawn to the sport of bike racing, so let's list a few here:

It's all about having fun. Look past the butterflies in your stomach at the start line and you are likely to find that the joy synonymous with riding bikes is only amplified when you have a number plate fastened to your handlebars.

It's a chance to spend quality time with family. If you really think about it, there are not a lot of

sports where the whole family can participate and have fun together. Luckily, with bike racing, nobody needs to be left watching from the sidelines.

Family and friends who are not racing can still be involved. Even friends and family members who are not

interested in racing their bike can still be involved by helping out with registration, course marshalling or any number of other jobs that keep them active

**EVERY** 

**Keith Ailey** 

807.623.1432

and engaged during the event.

Thunder Bay's cycling community is unbeatable.

This sport features a diverse group of cool and interesting people who tend to be fun, supportive, and full of energy. It is pretty much guaranteed that all your interactions with the good folks you will meet at a bike race will be positive ones.

Always have something to look forward to.

Selecting a few key events and adding them to your calendar will always give you something to be excited about.

In Thunder Bay, you will find weekly cycling events and a few big festivals like The Blacksheep Mountain Biking Club's upcoming Spring Classic Bike Festival on June 2 and June 3.

Feel pride in your accomplishments and progress.

Whether the goal is to earn a spot on the podium or simply to complete an event, we can all find something to be proud of at the end of a bike race.

For many people, just signing up for an event provides the inspiration and motivation to make healthy choices and establish a positive routine.

Whether you are an experienced rider or brand new to the sport, you are sure to discover that racing bikes is incredibly fun, rewarding and a great way to meet some of the amazing people involved in the sport here in Thunder Bay.

Visit www.blacksheepmtb.com and www.tbaycc.ca to see all the upcoming events.







### **EDITORIAL**

### **Costly battle**

The City of Thunder Bay is spending beyond its means, but the vast majority of the dip into the overdraft account is because of police expenses.

It's time the Ontario government steps up and makes a meaningful effort to help the city solve its growing guns and gangs problem.

Last year, there were 15 confirmed homicides in Thunder Bay, and several other near misses.

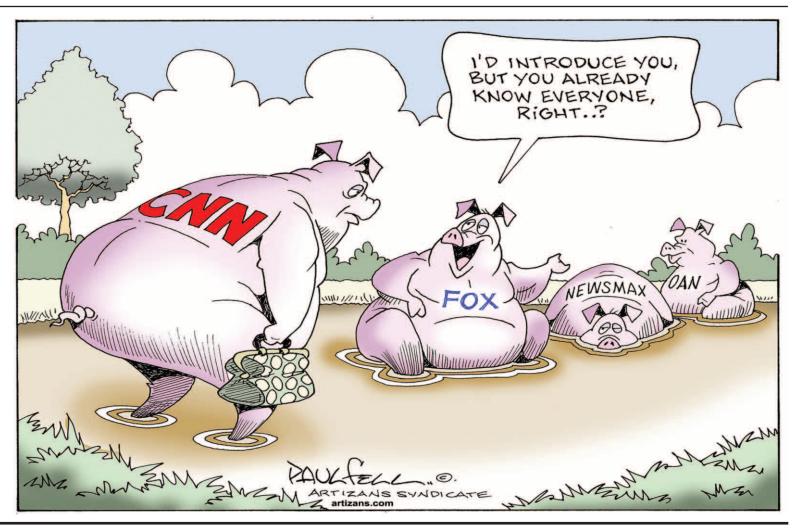
These investigations take time, lots of time.

They also take officers off the street, especially when there are multiple investigations at various stages taking place at the same time.

Most, though not all, of the killings are gang-related, the result of the demand for illicit drugs in the city.

Thunder Bay is not alone. The issue plagues cities from border to border to border, and communities like ours can't keep up with the associated expenses – not to mention the tragic outcomes for far too many families and individuals.

Ontario spent \$75 million on guns and gangs last year. Thunder Bay got nothing, despite a record year for murder on the books. Not acceptable.



### Pineapple Street and America's super-rich

Pineapple Street by Jenny Jackson is about the American super-rich elite. It is difficult to empathize with characters who are not only exceedingly wealthy but generationally exceedingly wealthy, and who say things like 'Oh no! I left my Cartier bracelet in Lena's BMW and she's leaving soon for her grandmother's house in Southampton!'

This is an unabashedly old-fashioned story involving wills, trust funds, prenups and property - lots of property, and so much of it in a single refined corner of Brooklyn that family members (Chip and Tilda Stockton and their adult children: Cord, Darley and Georgiana) refer to the mother ship

among their family holdings as 'the limestone.'

The Stocktons are a real estate family, but not like a real estate

family from, say, Queens, who put their family name on everything in sight. Instead, they're under the radar, happy to be known by people they have always known in Brooklyn Heights, the Hamptons and at their clubs, where they play tennis constantly against one another.

Tilda is 'of a generation that despised difficult conversations and shut down at the slightest hint of conflict or unpleasantness,' but that reticence has also been passed down to her daughters, Darley (a brilliant businesswoman now at home with

her children) and Georgiana (who works, without much engagement, at a philanthropic organization located in a Brooklyn mansion).

Tilda is that frustrating mix of a person who will move out of 'the limestone' after many decades in order to offer it to her son, Cord, and

his new wife, Sasha - who is from Rhode Island and emphatically not the Newport end of the state, either - but still police her daughter-inlaw's 'tablescape' arrangements and forbid her to throw away so much as a trophy from outgrown and abandoned bedrooms when she comes over for dinner.

Sasha has carefully chosen Cord as a husband who loves but does not need her, and she is happily married to him, even as his parents and sisters mystify her. She cannot comprehend a family that offers her an enormous house to live in, free of charge, but still refuses to make room for her in any meaningful way. She overhears her sisters-in-law referring to her as a gold digger.

Darley is married to Malcolm, a Korean American consultant with a passion for all things aviation. Darley's own decision not to insist on a prenup reflects the fact that her husband is on the cusp of a great career, and the agreement itself felt like arranging their eventual divorce. Besides, Darley takes less of an entitled view of her wealth.

Georgiana is keeping a few secrets of her own. The youngest Stockton carefully withholds an ill-advised affair with a colleague when she's hobnobbing at family gatherings.

While Jackson's characters are admirably complex and not un-selfaware, and while they do ruminate on privilege and what it provides, the concept of entitlement never quite leaves the novel's background.

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**John Pateman** 

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# Variability versus climate change

By JR Shermack

Canadians are quickly learning the difference between climate variability and climate change.

Residents of Northwestern Ontario have been dealing with climate variability for years and we have learned to cope with the effects of sudden shifts in the weather.

To paraphrase Forrest Gump's mom, the weather around here is like a box of chocolates and you never know what you will get.

Two weeks ago we were still throwing snowballs in the back yard which isn't unusual for this time of year but the rising temperatures quickly put an end to that.

Ground that was recently covered with snow is now exposed and drying out in the sun – soon we will need either a good rain or a good watering for the perennials and early vegetables.

Climate variability a minor inconvenience – we are accustomed to weather challenges around here including everything from a January thaw to a freak

frost in June or late August.

We cope with the snow and cold in the winter and in the heat of summer when the bush is tinder dry we deal with the menace of frequent forest fires and forced evacuations.

We all know the drill and will be sheltering fire evacuees and battling forest fires again this summer – the only thing is, sometimes it seems to be getting worse.

Fire is an essential part of the Boreal Forest ecosystem but higher temperatures are leading to earlier snow melts and fire seasons driven by severe lightning and high winds.

Professional fire crews are often battling to save remote communities while the residents are evacuated to shelter in other welcoming places around the region.

This used to be a regular summer routine in Northwestern Ontario but it is becoming a nonstop emergency rescue mission for life and death situations.

Excess warming in the 21st century is expected to result in

more fires in the boreal forest with severe environmental and economic consequences.

As wildland fire activity increases, resources will be increasingly strained – it will be more difficult to rescue threatened communities isolated in the forest.

These dangerous situations are the effects of climate change and it will be well beyond the seasonal variations Canadians expect.

This is where we are headed even though there is only one active wildfire in Northwestern Ontario right now – however there may be smoke on the western breeze.

I haven't detected any yet but massive wildfires in Alberta are billowing smoke in a countrywide arc that lands in parts of Ontario – even when there's no fire you still get smoke.

Compared to our one single fire, Alberta has already faced well over 400 wildfires this year and firefighters from Ontario are in that province helping out with their major hotspots.



Wildfires are out of control in Alberta.

Alberta describes their situation as "unique" with "astronomical fire growth" and is also looking internationally for further assistance.

This is what happens as weather variances evolve into full-blown climate change.

Even King Charles III expressed concern for those who are affected and suffered losses due to the Alberta wildfires, citing fond personal memories of Western Canada.

Also, an unusually early BC heat wave has gripped that province with record high temperatures, creating hot weather challenges for firefighters there.

Large wildfires continue to burn out of control with daytime temperatures ten to fifteen degrees C above average – July weather in mid May.

As for me, I sometimes feel that here in Thunder Bay we are far enough away from and high enough above the oceans that we are somehow sheltered from the storm.

It may be a false sense of security – I guess I haven't learned the difference between variability and change.

what's Happening in and around. . .

### The Bay

To submit an event, email ldunick@dougallmedia.com. Please include details about the event, including any cost

### **May 20**

**Oliver Paipoonge Heritage Park** 

Opening Day is May 20 at Oliver Paipoonge Heritage Park, formerly Founders Pioneer Village, 3190 Hwy 61. Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Music by Road Worn Chaps, Burt's Garage Band. Food by Fox on the Run, Mini Donut Shoppe. Duke Hunt Museum, Russ's Garage, some Village buildings. Admission \$5 13years and up. Phone 807-475-7424 or email opmuse2@tbaytel.net

### May 20/21

**Thunder Bay Chill** 

Chapples Park Field is the place to be this Saturday and Sunday as the Thunder Bay Chill make their 2023 debut

The team is full of new faces and will take their first test in a pair of friendlies against the Winnipeg Lions, an annual tradition for the USL2 club.

Kickoff on Saturday night is 7 p.m., with Sunday's game going at 1 p.m.

### May 26-28

**Superior Quilts Quilt Show** 

Thunder Bay Quilters Guild is presenting a fantastic quilt show at the CLE Coliseum Building with over 200 quilts on display.

The show also includes handmade items for sale, vendors, demonstrations and a 40th anniversary Quilt Challenge. The event will be open Friday, May 26 from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, May 27 from 10am to 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Entry is \$5 (cash only).

### **May 23**

Queen - It's a Kinda Magic

Queen - It's a Kinda Magic features more than 20 of the band's greatest hits such as We Will Rock You, Bohemian Rhapsody, We Are the Champions and Fat-Bottomed Girls.

Painstaking detail has been paid to all the music - the iconic voice of Mercury, the amazing guitar solos of May and the groundbreaking Rock harmonies.

And with state-of-the-art sound and lighting and an explosive international cast, this is as close as you'll ever get to the real thing.

The show is Tuesday night at the Community Auditorium, with tickets available through Ticketmaster, starting at \$85 plus fees.

### June 10

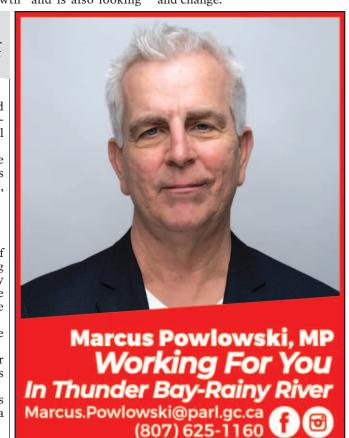
**Sounds of Superior Chorus** 

Come and celebrate 50 years of harmony with the award-winning Sounds of Superior Chorus! The Fifty and Glitzy Gala Concert will take place on June 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the DaVinci Centre.

Experience live music and the sounds of four-part harmony.

The DaVinci's famous Antipasto Bar will be served at intermission. Tickets are \$40.

Purchase tickets through a Chorus member, online through Eventbrite.ca or at soundsofsuperior@gmail.com.





An 81-year-old male driver accidentally reversed into the wall at the Arthur Street Boston Pizza. No one was hurt.

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# 10-Digit Dialing

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As a result of the CRTC mandate to transition to 10-digit dialing across Canada, all mobility customers must now dial 10 digits (807 + 7 digit phone number) for local calls. Ten-digit dialing for Home Phone and Business Voice services will follow later in the year.

To learn more, visit tbaytel.net/10digitdialing

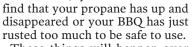


# **Barbecue season arrives**

With the season drastically changing so quickly I would be remiss if I didn't see the BBQs

being dragged out a little later than usual this year.

You always remember that first BBQ of the season. Sometimes its perfect, sometimes not so much. You find something that's made its home in your rig for the winter, you can



These things will happen over time and to any outdoor appliance.

The typical BBQ meal consists of

a steak, or chop or burger or dog grilled and slathered with ketchup based BBQ sauce (I hope not your

steak but I'm not one to judge, that was a lie, yes I am).

There are many things we associate with the BBQ, however there are many proteins, starches and vegetables that lend itself to the barbecue that we may not initially think abut

One of the favourites in my house is pork tenderloin.

Cut into medallions, the pieces would cook (and possibly burn) far too quickly.

However, when butterflied and grilled in one large, flatter piece.

The result is a relatively quick cook, and an extremely tender, flavourful piece of meat that lends itself to many different flavour profiles.

When you think of grilling green veggies, people automatically go to asparagus, its easy, fast to prep and even faster to cook.

One dish that's been making waves on upper class menus in the last few years is grilled (charred) broccoli and its brother, broccolini.

Charring at a medium high temperature will add a little bit of smokey flavour while maintaining the texture of the vegetable and adding a little extra crispness.

You can season your broccoli with salt and pepper and dress with a little butter and lemon juice

**EVERY** 

after it comes off the grill.

The acidity lightens up and brings out the natural flavour of the broccoli.

You can also cut the broccoli into large florets to grill them, and they look beautiful on a finished plate.

Now store bought BBQ sauces have come a long way in the last few years. Many variations are readily available. Most commercially available sauces are variations on West or North Carolina (ketchup based) sauces.

However, southern Carolina sauces are starting to gain popularity all over north America with their unique flavour combinations.

Generally speaking, it consists of mustard, mustard seed, vinegar,

sugar and spices.

Now, in recent years, the addition of chopped chipotle peppers has become popular to add smokey and spicy flavours to the background.

Certain stonefruits such as peaches and mangos have also been known to pop up in South Carolina BBQ sauces as well.

No matter what, the BBQ is a great excuse to gather around friends and family and enjoy some good food, isn't that the real reason we are all here?

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restauranteur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory with two locations in Westfort and Current River and Co-Owner of Elite Beef, Brick and Mortar Food Co. and Eat Loco Tacos.

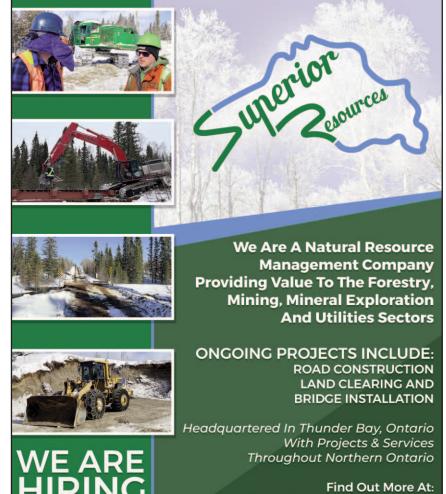
https://superiorresources.ca/careers/



**Derek Lankinen** 

Here's Cooking at You Kid





# Birds, spring peepers and greening

I was crossing the yard twixt hoodie and barn en route to giving the horse on stall rest her final hav for the night when I heard it: the chirring of spring peepers. What a racket! Almost deafening. But a sure sign of spring.

The snow took its time to melt but one afternoon this past week I decided to have a look-see at the beaver pond.

The dogs and I trooped across the paddock and down what was a lane but is growing in (must cut all those tag alder that are taking over) down to the lookout stand I installed at the pond. The ice was gone as was the snow. Sophie, the black lab retriever, being a water dog, ventured into the shallows but not for long as the water temperature would be not much above freezing. It was the next night that I heard the peepers.

Peepers are curious critters. They only chorus at night (at least in my experience) and if they hear any noise, they stop. Say you are near

pond being bombarded by their shrill onslaught. You shout once and all is quiet. At least for about 10 to 20 seconds and not hearing any more shouts, the peepers resume their mating songs. But I love hearing them.

Another spring returnee to our neck of

the woods is the American Bittern. Doesn't have to be night to hear them "galumphing" in the swamp.

A couple of summers ago I happened to look out our southfacing living room window only to spy a bittern standing in the paddock and then dashing elsewhere to stand again with its telltale head pointing straight up; and then dash off again eventually flying back to the pond. Odd, that, since I thought that they

never left the safety of the water.

What birds are now feasting at the feeder are Purple Finches. Gorgeous in their reddish plumage (the males). I've also seen a couple of hawks including a redtail and the wide-winged marsh hawk flying low over the ground in

search of a meal - probably mice.

**Fred Jones** 

Along the back roads the pussy willows have sprung and each day those pussy willow buds are bursting into leaf.

The birch trees are sending their sap up the trunk causing the branches to turn a reddish-purple colour; the poplars are doing the same but their colour when the sap rises is a light green. Soon we'll be seeing the flowers of the Saskatoon bushes as well.

And unfortunately (it was bound to happen) the mosquitoes are prowling seeking blood as are the wood tics. My wife, Laura, discovered two on her shirt while she was working in the garden.

"They must have come off the branches of the tree in the north end where I was digging. I brushed against it once or twice."

Daughter Beth found a tick on her shirt and she hadn't even gone outside. Must have rubbed off one of the dogs. Fortunately, we have given each of the pooches anti-tick medication so while they might pick up a tick or two on their travels, the tics don't get to attach to the doggy fur. Good!

As you drive these roads you observe that most of the trees that come into leaf are still bare; but then right in the middle of a vast forest of leafless poplar you see a lone one fully clothed in light green. More and more trees are dressing in green.

But the land is drying; the sun and heat are doing their job.

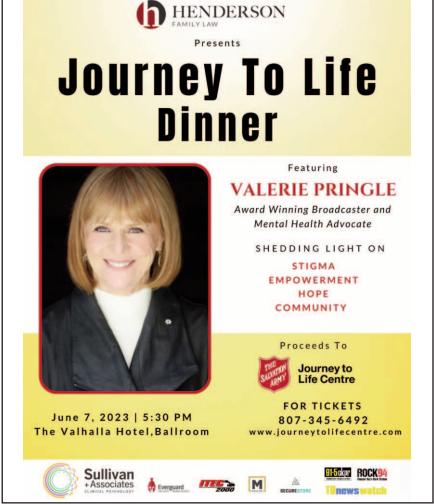
The only snow I still see is along north-facing edges of the bush where the sun doesn't make contact and I'll bet that by the time you read this scribbling, it, too, will be gone.

The other sign of springing into summer is the number of trucks hauling boats on trailers. Well, of course: this weekend is the May long weekend and the opening of fishing.

So, I am very happy with the greening of land, the incredible bird song, even the deafening chorus of the peepers., and to get on the water again.







# **BlackBerry makes connection**

Blackberry (SilverCity) tells the origin story of the first Smartphone created by some tech nerds in Waterloo, Ont. that would blaze into massive global success in the 1990s, only to be virtually wiped out by the arrival of the I-phone in the early 2000s.

Blackberry is amusing, intense, heartbreaking and immensely entertaining. Writer/director/costar, Matt Johnson establishes the movie's serio-comic tone. shooting Blackberry in a mockumentary style similar to TV's The

It's Air meets The Social Network, taking us behind the scenes of the unlikely evolution of the Blackberry, from a crude, patched together prototype to become the personal communications darling of millions who'll

love thumbing the cobblestonelike buttons on the mini-keyboard.

This is an age of palm pilots, pagers and faxes. No one has seen anything like this before: a phone and email transmitter (and eventually a camera) all

lumped together in a hand-held device? Really?

Blackberry is a study in contrasts among the central figures, with tech nerds Mike Lazaridis (Jay Baruchel) an introspective genius and his buddy, Doug Fregin (Matt Johnson) a

moon-doggie movie nut, tousled hair forever bound in a headband and their unlikely alliance with Jim Balsillie (Glen Howerton), a

**Marty Mascarin** 

**MOVIE TALK** 

brusque, no-nonsense businessman.

They barely speak the same language.

But Lazaridis sees Balsillie as just the type to handle sales and

marketing while he and Doug would oversee tech and innovation.

They form Research in Motion (RIM) and their wild chaotic ride begins. Balsillie is appalled by Lazaridis' engineering resembling a frat house, more obsessed with popcorn machines and movie nights.

They're simply happy to build something cool.

New COO Purdey (Michael Ironside) boots them into the real

Success brings enormous pressures: crises with network dropouts, fending off hostile takeovers.

There's intense problem solving and deal-making. Rivals abound. Balsillie poaches engineers from Google and Motorola with tricky paperwork. RIM would eventually generate \$20 billion in sales in 12

As portrayed by Howerton, Balsillie is a shark, comically over the top barking orders and screaming on the phone. He's distracted by his desire to buy the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins. This leads to a hilarious sequence with Balsillie feverishly jetting around the US east coast, juggling meetings with both the NHL and AT & T in a matter of hours.

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But in 2007 along comes Apple's Steve Jobs with the iPhone, its touch screen (!) and billion-dollar tech support superior to RIM. Further, the Securities and Exchange Commission begins investigating RIM's business practices. Alliances are strained.

The movie is loosely inspired by Jacquie McNish's book about the rise and fall of the Blackberry. Although highly fictionalized, we buy into the human folly aspect, thanks to the performances of Baruchel and Howerton and Iohnson's direction.

For one brief shining moment, we can relish how a little Canadian company would (temporarily) lead the revolution into how we communicate with each other. Blackberry is a treat to watch.







### **Ten-Mile race returns**

For the first time since 2019, an in-person event is scheduled to take place on Victoria Day

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Firefighters Ten Mile Road Race didn't completely disappear during the pandemic, but the virtual event that took its place just wasn't the same.

Four long years after the 2019 in-person event was held, runners will take to the starting line on Simpson Street on Victoria Day, competing for the title of fastest 10-miler in the city - or just out to set a personal best or check the race off their bucket list.

It's been a long-time coming, said race organizer Herb Daniher on Thursday, making a last-minute push for entrants in both the open and relay categories.

About 500 people have already signed up to take part, with registrations remaining open until this coming Monday.

"We're quite excited. We've got a couple of new things we're going to do this year to try to up the ante a little bit. One of them is we're re-engaging the community to come out and do some cheering," Daniher said, calling it an open invitation to the community.

"We also have someone who donated \$1,000, so we've got a \$500 first-prize for the fastest first-time entrant, male and female, and then we have cash prizes as usual. We're just excited about the race and all the pieces fitting together and being back live and in person."

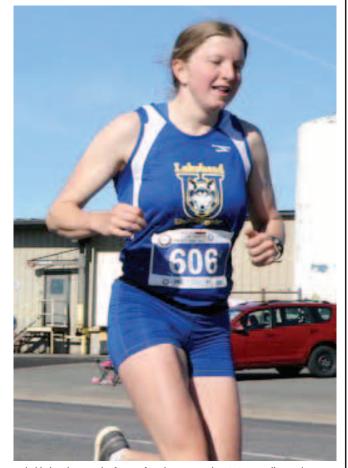
### More than 100 years old

The event has a long history in the city, dating back to 1910, when it was first contested. At the time it was a small group of elite runners who took part.

After losing steam several decades ago, the race became a staple of the May long weekend about 30 years ago, and has consistently drawn 100s of runners of all abilities to take part.

"Now it's open to the community and we have all different calibers," Daniher said, adding there may be new competition in the men's race.

"I know for a fact there is a new person in town going to school. They're going to be a first-time entrant and he's told me he's going to break 50 minutes. He looks pretty fit. We've got some other people running around that we've spoken to and people are out to get their personal bests down and get



Rebekkah Pyle was the fastest female racer at the 2019 Ten-Mile Road Race.

back into the swing of things. This is one of the races that are in their repertoire, especially if they do longer races, inside or outside."

#### Similar format

The race course remains the same, with runners starting on Simpson Street and then down Fort William Road to the Marina overpass, where they turn around and repeat the course in reverse order through the start/finish line.

Duluth's Scott Behling won the men's event in 2019, while Rebekkah Pyle captured the women's title.



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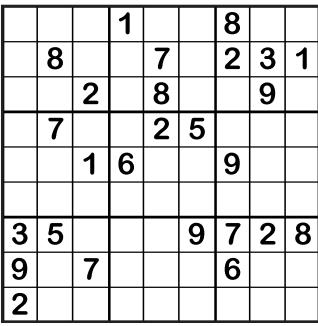


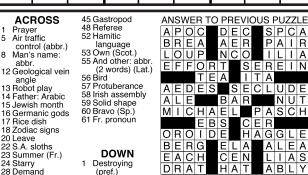
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14 SPORTS Visit TBnewswatch.com Thursday, May 18, 2023

### **Staals moving on**

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

There's guaranteed to be at least one hockey-playing Staal brother in the Stanley Cup final.

Jordan Staal, captain of the Carolina Hurricanes, helped his team advance to the Eastern Conference final, downing the New Jersey Devils in five

Older brothers Eric and Marc have been key parts of the Florida Panthers surprising run, which resulted in a similar five-game series win over the Toronto Maple Leafs in Round 2 after stunning the top-ranked Boston Bruins in the opening round.

The Staal's success meant the end of the 2023 playoff road for two other Thunder Bay hopefuls, New Jersey's Mackenzie Blackwood and Toronto's Matt Murray.

Both goaltenders have been on the injured list and neither one played a minute through the first two rounds.



Marc Staal is looking for his first Stanley Cup.



Dayton Clarke (left) spent last season with the Kam River Fighting Walleye. He died Saturday after being struck by a vehicle.

## A hockey tragedy

**Leith Dunick** 

It was supposed to be a week of celebration for the Kam River Fighting Walleye. Sadly, it turned tragic, the team on Sunday announcing that former forward Dayton Clarke had been killed in a vehiclepedestrian incident in Eugene, Ore.

Clarke wasn't with the Fighting Walleye long, acquired midway through last season. But he made an impact in the short time he was with the team, a point-a-game player who led the team into the 2022 SIJHL final.

The 21-year-old scored the Game 4 overtime winner against the Thunder Bay North Stars that sent the Fighting Walleye to their first championship round, something he told me every kid thinks about anytime they step on the

"Everybody dreams to score the OT goal and sweep them," he said.

The incident that took his left occurred just before 4 a.m. on Saturday, police arriving on scene in Eugene,

where Clarke was a member of the Oregon Ducks hockey team, teammates with another former Fighting Walleye star, goaltender Austin Madge.

The hockey world has lost another shining light far too soon.

Canada's Stanley Cup drought has officially reached 30 years, with the second-round ousting of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Edmonton Oilers.

I thought the Oilers might make a run, but it turns out having the two best players in the game isn't enough if the talent surrounding them doesn't step up their game. In the end, goaltending and the inability to score often enough in 5-on-5 situations

did Edmonton in.

As for the Leafs, it may be the end of the road for general manager Kyle Dubas, rumoured in some circles to be the favourite to take Ron Hextall's chair in Pittsburgh, and coach Sheldon Keefe, who was unable to push his team beyond the second

Goaltending was an issue, but I think they got caught looking beyond the Florida Panthers, at least in the early stages of the series, and before they

knew it, they were down 3-0 in the

Will they trade one of the core four? Perhaps, with free agency pending for Auston Matthews and William Nylander after next season, they could be forced into action, should they realize one or both won't sign. This summer may very well tell the tale if negotiations break down.

SPORTS SHORTS If you're looking for live sports action this weekend, Chapples Field is the place to be. The

Thunder Bay Chill, and their mostly revamped starting 11, will take to the pitch for their annual friendlies against the Winnipeg Lions.

I have high expectations for the Chill, based on past performance, and the fact the Des Moines Menace are no longer in the Deep North Division. That said, the rest of the division did not stand pat and if the Chill take any of their opponents for granted, the playoffs could be a pipe dream. It's also tough to judge the talent the team has brought in without actually seeing them play.

Game time on Saturday night is 7 p.m. and Sunday's action kicks off at 1 p.m.



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in the Estate of Carol Anne Lemire

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